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WHAT PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOU: I am painfully shy. People wouldn't know that about me because I am always talking.

IF YOU HAD UNLIMITED MONEY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO:
Go back to school, and travel. Also have a comedy store.

MOST ANNOYING THING SOMEONE CAN DO TO GET YOUR ATTENTION FOR A DRINK: Tap their card on the bar.

BEST DRINK TO CALM SOMEONE DOWN: Russian qualudes.

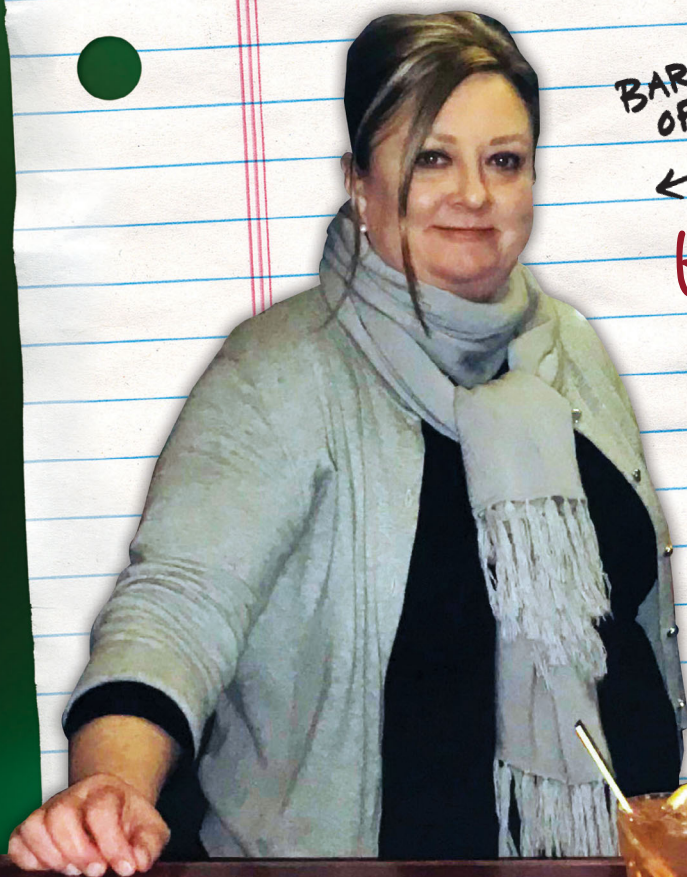
BEST WAY TO GET SERVED MORE QUICKLY AT THE BAR:
Take your clothes off.

STRANGEST DRINK REQUEST: Tequila tonic.

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR NEW CELEBRITY STATUS:
Retire and act like nothing happened.

BARTENDER
OF THE WEEK

Kathy



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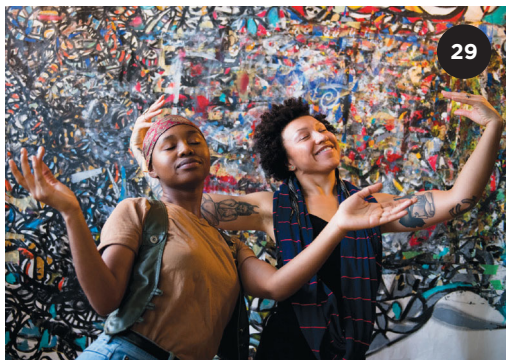
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December 6-12, 2017

VOLUME 37 | NUMBER 1931



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Looking back on the dining scene of 2017, a great year to eat your feelings.

By CP staff

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SAVAGE LOVE
CROSSWORD

cover credit

PHOTO BY
Eliesa Johnson.
Pictured: Foie Gras
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THE SHORTLIST



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BILLY BRIGGS

THE STAT SHEET

6

Number of women who've accused Al Franken of being a pervert

16

Number of times President Trump has been accused of sexual harassment or assault

2.3%

Unemployment rate for Minneapolis-St. Paul, tied with Nashville for the lowest in the nation

10

Number of licenses Wisconsin has issued to children under age 1 after eliminating its hunting age limits

“With the Christian religious right in charge of things, this country becomes less Christ-like every day. Being poor is not a crime in the Bible, but being stingy and greedy are.”

Reader Kaddie Zahnab responds to “In Stewartville, Minnesota, students in debt get to watch someone throw away their lunch,” at citypages.com.

THE WELFARE STATE

PRESIDENT TRUMP is tossing out yet another gift to the rich and famous this season: Mining companies will no longer have to prove they have the money to clean up their own pollution.

Never mind that said companies have a long, long history of abandoning sites, leaving Jane Q. Citizen to cleanse the toxic mess. Between 2010 and 2014, taxpayers were sent a \$1.1 billion tab for mining companies with alligator arms.

The new rule is especially damning for Minnesota. The Polymet copper-nickel mine, planned for Hoyt Lakes, will require water pollution to be monitored for 500 years. Start saving now, dear citizen. Your bill will be arriving every April 15th.

POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

MODIST releases ‘Dilly Dilly’ double IPA, is immediately hit with hilarious cease and desist from Anheuser-Busch

RICE COUNTY OFFICIAL tweets racist reaction to Diamond Reynolds’ settlement

WHISKEY JUNCTION calls it quits, blames minimum wage

‘Go back to Mexico’: Video captures **RACIST MENARDS SHOPPER** in West St. Paul

ROBBINSDALE COOPER HALL MONITOR busted having sex with student when her dad walked in

THE FECES ARE COMING

A small town fights for its life against a factory farm



INGRAM PUBLISHING

Economic development in eastern South Dakota can be explained in a word: udders.

The initiative to lure dairy companies via cheap government loans started with former Gov. Mike Rounds, enticing them to relocate along the I-29 corridor with subsidies and hands-off regulations.

Numbers prove the strategy is working. South Dakota farmers sell almost \$400 million worth of milk per year. But the stats also show it's largely factory dairies heeding the call. In 2005, the state's average dairy farm had 250 cows. Today, it's closer to 1,500 head.

In 2014, residents living near Lake Hendricks heard rumors that a huge dairy was being planned. It was said the operation would be built on a hilltop about four miles west of the lake in Brookings County, South Dakota. Minnesota and South Dakota share the five-mile-long lake.

The rumors traveled over the border to the town of Hendricks, Minnesota (pop. 780).

Michael Crinion proposed building a 4,000-head dairy. The Environmental Protection Agency says that many cows pump out as much excrement as 500,000 people per year. The project would include three giant manure pits. But since they wouldn't be able to handle all the waste, Crinion said the dairy would ink agreements with farmers to the west, where manure would be pumped on fields as fertilizer. (Crinion could not be reached for comment.)

From the high ground where the dairy would be, the terrain bends and slopes downward. The land's final descent occurs at Oak Lake, a sparsely populated body inside South Dakota.

People knew Oak Lake's tributaries fed Lake Hendricks. That meant any breach of the manure pits would eventually end up in the lake.

Jonathan Lengkeek, owner of a restaurant and a bakery in downtown Hendricks, says the lake's import cannot be overstated. He points to the boaters, swimmers, and fishermen largely responsible for making a vital downtown.

"All our storefronts are full," he says. "Most little towns wouldn't be able to support so many healthy businesses."

Lengkeek is worried the dairy could wreak havoc on the lake's water quality. But he's more fearful of the stink carried by a steady breeze.

About 100 citizens formed the Lake Hendricks Improvement Association to fight the project. The group has already spent about \$100,000 in legal fees. Its latest challenge might very well be the battle that decides the winner.

Association President Brenda Boeve believes the laws of nature say a factory farm doesn't belong atop a hill where spillage could turn what's below into a death zone. In January, a South Dakota judge will hear the case.

The association contends the county's approval of a conditional use permit that halved the dairy's setback from a drinking water well was illegal. Moreover, the county's aquifer protection regulations prohibit the dairy being built on the proposed site.

"We must fight," says Boeve. "We have this beautiful lake, a great community with people who care. This is about doing what's right." —CORY ZUROWSKI

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Taxes and Tiffany

A tycoon goes shopping for the less fortunate

The following document, saved under the title “2017 XMAS PARTY SPEECH,” was leaked to City Pages.

I want to welcome everyone to our annual office Christmas gala, and to thank you for your hard work this past year. In 2017, we soared to even greater heights: Our stock is up, expenses are down, and the lead plaintiff in that scurrilous lawsuit was too ill to testify.

[Pause for applause.]

We also lost some good people. That’s always sad, whether it’s just a few folks, or a few thousand, as you no doubt recently read in the Wall Street Journal. If you recall, that was a page 1 story.

[Pause for applause.]

Next year will be even better. The tax reform plans now working their way through Congress will do wonders for us, as the government’s annual robbery from corporations is set to fall from a rate of 35 percent to 20 percent. Our company will save many millions of dollars, which will be distributed in the only fair way possible: to our shareholders.

For you, our employees, I thought we’d celebrate with some Christmas gifts I have selected from my wife’s favorite store, Tiffany. Though it typically caters to a certain echelon of clientele, Tiffany has graciously come out with a signature line of “everyday objects,” and who better to receive them than the people who work hard for me every day?

First, to Barbara, our loyal receptionist. I know your husband Henry has been in failing health, and you were worried the company might change its insurance policy regarding dependents. That decision

is, obviously, above your paygrade. But I know Henry will appreciate the “whimsical twist” Tiffany put on this sterling silver pillbox, perfect for storing Henry’s medications. I understand he takes quite a lot these days.

To Mark, our compliance supervisor. Mark’s wife works as a school teacher—at a public school! How brave!—and I’ve heard teachers will lose a tax deduction on supplies purchased out-of-pocket. Imagine

**Imagine the look
on her face
when she sees
this sterling silver
protractor!**

the look on her face when she sees this sterling silver protractor! It’s worth \$425; that’s 150 percent of the worth of that entire tax deduction! There’s only one, so the children will have to share.

To Christopher, our manager of warehouse inventory, I give you this striking tic-tac-toe set made from silver, walnut, and amazonite. I know you haven’t been able to compete in sports since your injury, which, as our attorneys have repeatedly informed you, was unrelated to all your hard work here. This board ought to be a nice way to ease yourself back into the field of play.

To Dawn, our brilliant financial strategist, I gift you this set of “luxurious alternative” ping pong paddles made from leather and walnut. They are in honor of the quite ingenious way you have our revenues bounce back and forth from here to Bermuda. And not because it’s a tax haven. My family has strong ties to the island. My grandfather’s brother was quite possibly conceived there!

To Geoffrey, our talented sales team leader, I know your oldest son is off at graduate school now, and that they’re one of the classes of people who stand to do slightly less well after the tax reform plan. Well, here I have for you a positively gorgeous sterling silver harmonica, in case he wants to learn how to play the blues. Doesn’t your family like blues music?

[Pause to ensure the question is not interpreted as racist.]

To Scott, our top accountant, I give you this yo-yo. This marvelous toy is to signify how, for people like you, income taxes will drop slightly under the Republican plan, before bouncing back up in just a few years. Scott’s 13-year-old daughter will love this yo-yo right away and, years from now, you can use it to explain why you can’t afford to send her to Northwestern, like you’d hoped.

To Matt and Eliza, sales duo supreme, and our most above-board office romance, I know you two like to entertain. My gift to you is these “paper plates,” which are actually made of (you guessed it!) sterling silver! There are only four of them, but I know the neighborhood you live in, and I can’t imagine you fitting more than two guests into your apartment at one time.

And finally, to our most valued employee,



Mike Mullen

who has, remarkably, served as an executive vice president since the day he graduated from college: my son, Pierce. To you, I give this nest woven from sterling silver, and these three porcelain eggs. One could say this gift is impractical, but it’s worth more than all the others put together, which is why I’ve saved it for Pierce.

It is for you, my dear boy, that I have prepared this “nest egg,” if you will. This company has spent years lobbying the government and supporting politicians, at a cost of millions of dollars, all so you could someday inherit my entire fortune, untaxed, and a company that finally pays a lower corporate income tax than we did before this country was hijacked by socialism and Franklin Roosevelt. Merry Christmas, Pierce.

And a happy new year to all of you. Enjoy your presents, try not to break them, and I look forward to seeing as many of you next Christmas as the board of directors deems financially feasible, given the competitive marketplace and the horrendously unfair tax climate in this country.

[Pause for standing ovation.]

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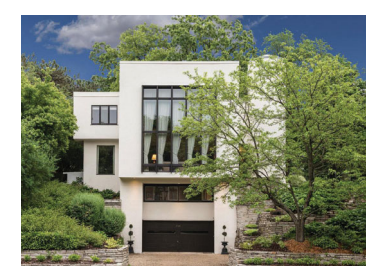
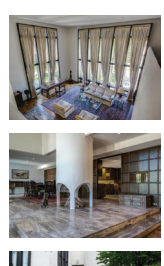
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BY SEAN SHERMAN WITH BETH DOOLEY

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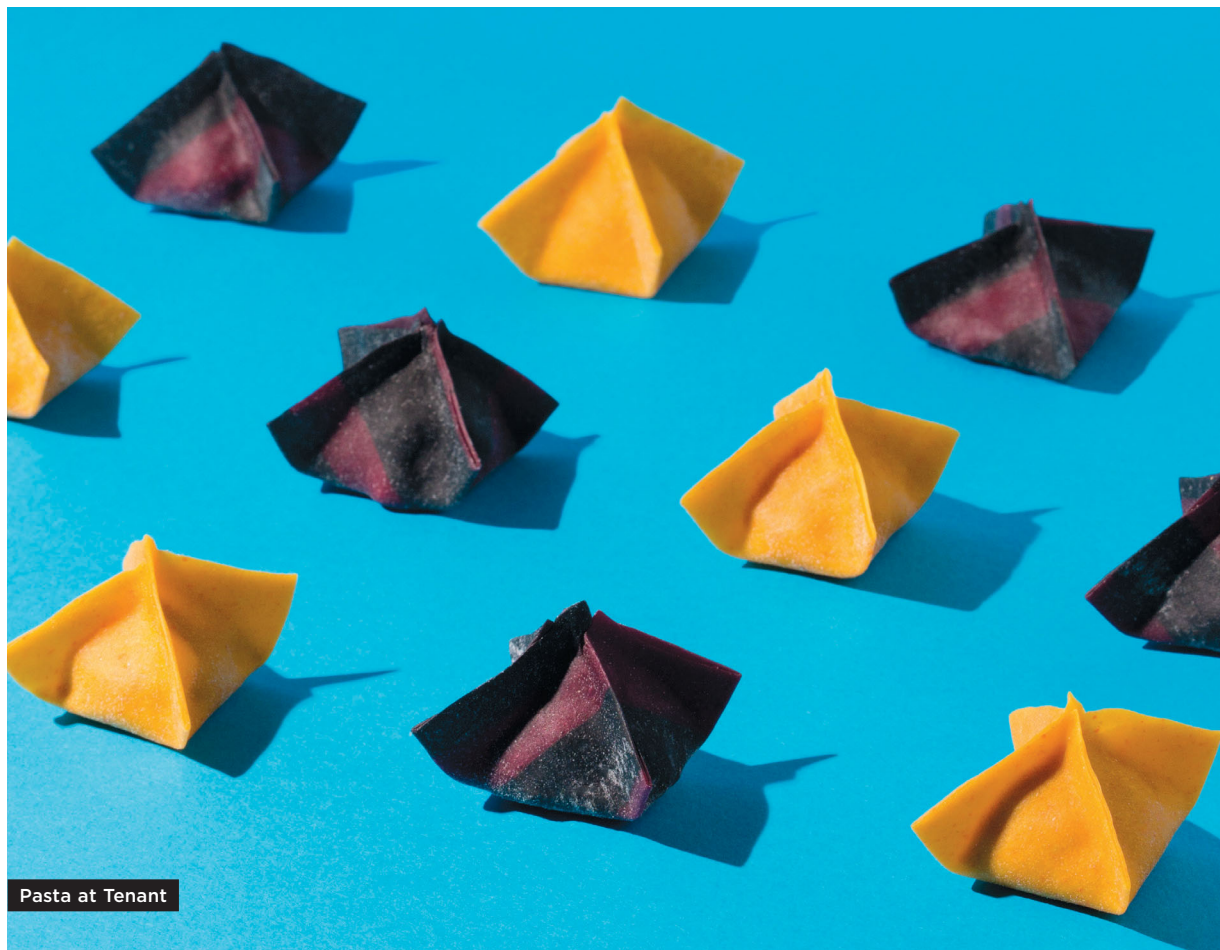
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2017

the year in food



Pasta at Tenant

ELIESA JOHNSON

If ever there was a year vibrant that in October, the *Wall Street Journal* called it one of the top 10 travel destinations in the world. Thanks to the chefs, restaurants, bartenders, and brewers who helped make the past 12 months ever so slightly more bearable. And now, without further ado, our look back on the year in food.

Stealing Headlines

— BY THERESA J. BECKHUSEN —

Don't give a damn about chef shuffles and menu changes? Even you likely followed these developing stories, which transcended the dining scene to become some of the biggest news in the Twin Cities this year.

1. Sunday Liquor Sales Arrive

For evidence of our country's Puritan background, look no further than blue laws, those regulations that restrict what folks can and can't do on Sundays. Blue laws persist in several states—mostly in the form of banning liquor store operations—and Minnesota's was on the books for 159 years, ever since the formalization of statehood. Blessedly, we can say “was,” as the state Legislature voted in March to axe the law and give liquor store owners the option to sell booze from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

Welcome to the 21st century.

The passage of this law is the result of years of campaigning—and assuaging the concerns of independent liquor store owners, some of whom worried that staying open seven days a week would drive up operating costs and make them less competitive with big-box stores. Given that Sunday sales have only been in effect since July 2, whether or not those cost-driven concerns will be confirmed remains to be seen. In the meantime, they're a boon to anyone who can't plan ahead when it comes to buying booze.

Surdyk's Liquor & Cheese did get a little ahead of themselves, opening on Sunday, March 12, before the new law went into effect. For jumping the gun—sorry, gun—Surdyk's paid out \$50,000 in fines and had to remain closed for three Sundays after the new law went into effect. (The penalties don't appear to have put any cramp in the store's style.) Elsewhere, the folks at Haskell's outlined what Sunday sales would mean on their blog: “You can be spontaneous! Brunch Mimosas just got easier. Sunday beers with brats just got faster. And while that Wisconsin beer run has been fun (we love you Wisconsin, but it's our turn), your thirst can be quenched faster, quicker, and easier, seven days a week! No more stocking up on Saturday or running dry on Sunday.”

As the Puritans would've said: “Amen.”

2. Minneapolis Adopts \$15 Minimum Wage Ordinance

In late June, the Minneapolis City Council was almost unanimous in its decision to raise the city's minimum wage to \$15 an hour. This across-the-board increase will be phased in over the next five to seven years; businesses employing more than 100 people must hit the target in five, while smaller businesses have seven. The

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Lexington



TONY NELSON

increase is meant to keep pace with the rising cost of living and, ideally, improve quality of life for hourly workers.

Skeptics of the ordinance wonder if upping the minimum wage will lead to the closure of small businesses. Raising prices on drinks and food may not be enough to offset the increased costs of labor and may alienate customers, they worry. Council member Blong Yang was also concerned that the higher wage would prove a barrier to folks who want to start their own businesses, particularly people of color.

Ask proponents, and they'll tell you the increase is a huge accomplishment—a step toward leveling the playing field and recognizing the importance of formerly lower-wage positions. It also acknowledges the reality that pay hasn't kept pace with inflation (check out the Economic Policy Institute's nominal wage tracker if you feel like being sad) and seeks to redress that, at least in a small way. And as Minneapolis goes, so goes St. Paul, whose city council is now considering a similar ordinance.

However, in early November, the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce filed a lawsuit against the city of Minneapolis, saying the ruling conflicts with the state law that sets the minimum wage. The Chamber lodged a similar lawsuit regarding the city's Earned Sick and Safe Time Ordinance, a suit they lost. We'll see about this one.

3. Owners of Club Jäger and Loring Pasta Bar learn that yes, there are consequences for your actions

We don't know, maybe donating \$500 to ex-KKK leader David Duke's Senate campaign wasn't such a great idea. But former Club Jäger owner Julius De Roma did exactly that. In August, the bar's entire staff quit when they discovered De Roma's donation, and scheduled perform-

ers pulled out of their gigs. Managers eventually shut down the whole joint, leaving De Roma high and dry. He said his donation constitutes free speech.

De Roma wasn't the only bar guy in town who got taken down in 2017 (a year which, despite general, all-around terrible-ness, will perhaps be remembered as the one when men learned what consequences are). Former owner of Loring Pasta Bar Jason McLean has been ordered to pay \$2.5 million to one of five women suing him for sexual abuse perpetrated during his time as a teacher with the Children's Theatre Company. (That figure, conveniently for McLean, is almost identical to the \$2 million for which he sold the Varsity Theater back in June.) Loring Pasta Bar closed but reopened in August, and is now owned by three former Pasta Bar managers and minted with a new name: Loring & Pharmacy Bar (or LRx).

Felicitations & Farewells

— BY HANNAH SAYLE —

Another year, another round of restaurant openings and closings. We toast the newbies we dig the most, and pour one (or several) out for the departed souls that broke our hearts.

CHEERS!

The Lexington



The Grande Dame of St. Paul was reintroduced to society in April, after three years of renovations and plenty of hopeful speculation as to how the 1935 institution would be revived. And the fancy old gal did not disappoint. A few upgrades to the



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interior brightened up the less savory side of nostalgia (mildew smell, begone) while retaining the class and sophistication of old-school fine dining. The menu was similarly preserved but pepped up by the careful hand of homegrown St. Paulite chef Jack Riebel.

1096 Grand Ave., St. Paul, 651-289-4990; thelexmn.com

Tenant



What teacher wouldn't want to see his protégés strike out on their own? When Doug Flicker closed Piccolo in south Minneapolis, his former sous chef and cook—Cameron Cecchini and Grisha Hammes—took up the mantle and kept the kitchen humming as Tenant, a no-name moniker that belies the culinary power here. The space is just as tiny as before, so seats are filled by reservation only, giving it the vibe of a private party. The room comes alive with a killer vinyl soundtrack, while the fixed-price chef's-choice menu lets you sit back, relax, and accept the bounty of flavor, plate by plate.

4300 Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis, 612-827-8111; tenantmpls.com

Bull's Horn



Lest you think Doug Flicker had gone into retirement, the longtime Piccolo chef closed one door in south Minneapolis and opened another—this time at the old Sunrise Inn dive bar in the Standish Ericson neighborhood. With a goal of keeping the dive dream alive, Flicker and his wife/partner Amy Greely did renovations only where necessary (you'll thank him when you hit the can) and kept the new Bull's Horn menu appropriately lowbrow (bologna sammy, two kinds of pizza burger, etc.). He also partnered with Heggies for some signature bar pies, brought in a 1971

Wurlitzer Zodiac jukebox, and placed a free popcorn machine right across from the pull-tab booth. We're in heaven.

4563 S. 34th Ave., Minneapolis, 612-208-1378; bullshornfoodanddrink.com

Grand Cafe



This year saw yet another passing of the torch when the owners of Grand Cafe at 38th and Grand in south Minneapolis gave their beloved neighborhood restaurant over to hotshot chefs Jamie Malone and Erik Anderson. The new Grand Cafe opened with a slightly finer approach, bringing Parisian luxury to the table via gold dinnerware, china plates, and rich delights like a Foie Gras Royale with crème Gitanes. Anderson has since moved on to helm Coi in San Francisco, but Malone's star shines as bright as ever. "Refined and decidedly indulgent, Grand Cafe is serving food fit for celebration," writes City Pages reviewer Emily Weiss, "but Malone insists that they want it to remain a casual neighborhood spot." Luxury within reach is grand indeed.

3804 Grand Ave. S., Minneapolis, 612-822-8260; grandcafemn.com

Bellecour



You'd think swooping into Minneapolis and drawing national attention with Spoon and Stable would be enough to keep Gavin Kaysen busy for a while, but you'd be happily mistaken. With one Twin Cities restaurant plugging along in the North Loop, Kaysen set his sights on a second in the 'burbs. Specifically, his hometown of Wayzata, where he opened Bellecour, an "elevated" bistro and bakery, in March of this year. It's got lakeside cachet, a chef with impeccable technique, and a pain au chocolat that apparently made critic Dara Moskowitz Grumdahl cry.

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bellecourrestaurant.com

Martina



You fell in love with his cooking at La Belle Vie, Bar La Grassa, and Burch, but to taste the soul of chef Daniel del Prado, you'll need to head to his new venture in Linden Hills. Martina is an homage to del Prado's Argentinian father and Italian mother and their respective cuisines, which, as it turns out, are a real power couple in the kitchen. Seafood-heavy pasta dishes, dreamy creamed leek empanadas, and bright crudo plates make a memorable table, and the dulce de leche on the pan-queque will haunt your dreams. Did we mention all the cocktails were created by bar wiz Marco Zappia and cost \$9 or less?

4312 S. Upton Ave., Minneapolis, 612-922-9913; martinarestaurant.com

Bar Brigade



The crowning glory of a neighborhood isn't its block parties or its elaborately landscaped yards, it's the presence of a solid neighborhood restaurant. Bar Brigade, the French tavern by JD Fratzke (formerly of Strip Club Meat and Fish) and Matty O'Reilly (of Republic and Red River Kitchen), is just such a place. Located in the Highland Park neighborhood of St. Paul, its ambiance is warm and friendly, the dishes are classic, rustic, well-executed French fare, the rosé flows from a tap, and half the place is open to walk-ins. So go ahead: Walk on in.

470 Cleveland Ave. S., St. Paul, barbrigade.com

Other 2017 openings of note: *The Lynnhall, Rise Bagel Co., Mercy, Seven Steakhouse (new management), StormKing Barbecue, J. Selby's, Bardo*

TEARS

Lucia's



The earth shivered under our feet when news of Lucia's closing broke in October. Gone was Minneapolis' original farm-to-table restaurant, a place that figured so prominently on the culinary scene that we couldn't imagine life without its little sidewalk tables and bright blue napkins. Local-foods pioneer Lucia Watson founded Lucia's in 1985 as a shrine to regional, seasonal cooking. In 1993, she opened the city's first wine bar in an adjacent storefront, and followed it with a popular to-go bakery and cafe in 2006. But once Lucia retired in 2014 and the little restaurant trio lost its coveted Uptown parking lot in 2016, the dining institution's days were numbered. Lucia's served its last meal on October 14.

Haute Dish



The wild and talented chef Landon Schoenefeld departed the Twin Cities in late 2016, citing the need to take care of his mental health. His restaurants, Haute Dish in the North Loop and Nighthawks and Birdie in south Minneapolis, were left to carry on without their captain. Birdie shuttered, Nighthawks has since been commandeered by restaurateur Kim Bartmann, and Haute Dish bit the dust in August. Farewell to a killer brunch, one of our favorite happy-hour burgers, and a host of playful takes on Midwestern classics.

Victory 44/Upton 43



Erick Harcey's sleek north Minneapolis bistro, Victory 44, was a boon for the Victory neighborhood and a magnet for brunch-lovers and "Perfect Burger"-lovers alike. So it was a loss when, after nearly 10 years at 44th and Penn Avenue North, the restaurant and coffee shop quietly

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shuttered in July. Perhaps even more surprising was Harcey's decision to close Upton 43, the much ballyhooed Scandinavian kitchen in Linden Hills, and its little sidecar takeout kitchen, the Dirty Bird. Harcey simultaneously announced his plans to reopen the restaurant in the North Loop neighborhood, but no space has been procured as of yet. Meanwhile, Martina opened in its former Linden Hills home.

Dulono's original location

Sure, Dulono's has since opened a new spot in downtown Minneapolis with the same regular karaoke nights and square-cut pies we know and love, but by god if we don't miss the fire-engine-red brick of its original south Minneapolis location. That venue shuttered abruptly in August because of irreconcilable issues with the landlord, taking with it 60 years of pizza, beer, and live bluegrass music in the Lyn-Lake neighborhood.

Surly Brewer's Table

With the culinary chops of Jorge Guzman, Surly Brewing attempted a new kind of taproom kitchen, not one of burgers and pretzels (though those could be found on the bar menu downstairs), but one of sophistication and ambition. The result, the Brewer's Table, was a triumph, culminating in Guzman's nomination for a James Beard Award this year. And then, just like that, the brewery announced it would be closing the concept and moving in a new direction. In August, Guzman left Surly, and we were left wondering if high-concept food and high-quality beer might ever again be paired in such an inspired way.

Triple Rock Social Club

Arguably more rock venue than restaurant, the Triple Rock is nonetheless a loss for vegans in need of a greasy breakfast to sop up the previous night's sins. Where else could you get a plate called "Beth's Big-Ass Breakfast Burrito" or the "Mother Biker" with home fries, vegan nacho "cheese," veggies, tofu scramble, and toast? They even had meat-free pigs in a blanket. If you can't appreciate the magic of vegan weenies wrapped in vegan batter, just know there were a lot of meat-eschewing folks who did.

Piccolo

Before gastronomy and adventurous plating reached parody levels on the national food scene, Doug Flicker's Piccolo was a bright spot of creativity in a league of its own. After opening in 2010, the south Minneapolis fine-dining nook stole critics' hearts and instantly

upped Minneapolis' culinary cred. But after seven years of kitchen tinkering, Flicker decided to call it quits while the gettin' was still good. Which is to say, he didn't shut his doors because he couldn't fill the seats in this very intimate dining room; he shut them because he felt he could make a respectable exit, moving on to new projects and preserving fond memories of his time at Piccolo.

Strip Club Meat & Fish

A beloved St. Paul restaurant run by two of the most charismatic guys on the scene—Tim Niver and JD Fratzke—Strip Club Meat and Fish was a tough loss for many a Twin Cities diner. They did great steaks, killer craft cocktails, and even better hospitality, courtesy of Niver. If you ever had the pleasure of stuffing yourself silly in the cozy confines of this East Side Victorian corner store, you'll understand why the place was so treasured by its loyal customers—and why Niver and Fratzke announced its closing months in advance, so folks would have plenty of time to say their goodbyes.

Other closings of note: *Obento Ya*, *St. Clair Broiler*, *Coup d'Etat*, *Red's Savoy*, *Craftsman Restaurant*, *Golden's Deli*, *Pig & Fiddle*, *Cafe Maude*, *Bradstreet Neighborhood Craftshouse*, *Birdie*, *Tanpopo*, *S.W. Craft Bar*, *Oak Grill*, *Skyroom*, *Third Bird*, *Marin Restaurant & Bar*, *Parma*

Playing Favorites

— BY EMILY CASSEL —

Where can you find the top chefs in the Twin Cities chowing down on their nights off? We asked a few of our faves (and one beloved brewer) to dish on the best thing they had this year that didn't come out of their own kitchen.

1 "I love the wood-fire-cooked whole fish special at Young Joni. It's always cooked to perfection and is served with a side of fresh herbs and addictive, tangy Naam Jim dipping sauce."

—CHRISTINA NGUYEN, CHEF-OWNER, HOLA AREPA AND HAI HAI

2 "The best thing that I ate this year (so far) was the Foie Gras Royale at Grand Cafe. Foie gras is one of my most favorite things, and Jamie makes it extra special. A very close second is the BBQ carrots at the Publican in Chicago."

—MIKE DECAMP, CULINARY DIRECTOR, JESTER CONCEPTS (MONELLO, BOROUGH, CONSTANTINE, PARLOUR)

3 "This year, three dishes stood out that I can recall—I can't pick just one. The chicken Jambonette with Savora mustard



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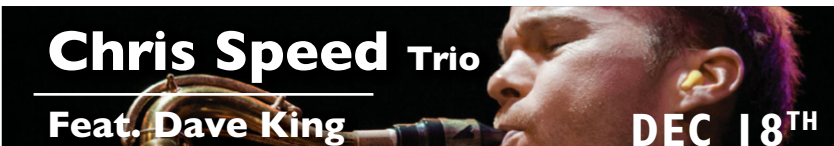
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at Grand Cafe... I can eat 20 of those, and I love Savora, too! From Heyday, the dry-aged duck breast, with bay leaves, gastrique, and currants. This dish is almost as sexy as Jim Christiansen. And lastly, the stuffed trout with turmeric at 112 Eatery. So great... just like every other dish at that restaurant."

—DANIEL DEL PRADO,
CHEF-OWNER, MARTINA

4 "One of the best bites that I consistently love are the noodle-stuffed chicken wings at the Hmong market in St. Paul. When we have chefs in town for synergy dinners I usually bring them there for lunch, and that is always one of my go-to favorites."

—GAVIN KAYSEN, CHEF-OWNER, SPOON
AND STABLE AND BELLECOUR RESTAURANT

5 "One of my favorite beers from this past year has been Summit Keller Pils. It's no secret that I'm a total homer for pilsners and pale lagers in general, and I appreciate that 2017 felt a little bit like the year of pils in the Twin Cities. There were lots of good entries locally (I'm a huge Schell's fan, as always), but Keller Pils was the one that ended up in my fridge most often. It's crisp, hoppy, crackery, and ticks all the legitimate lager boxes for me. We at Fair State are constantly in pursuit of lager perfection, and this beer was an inspiration to me."

—NIKO TONKS, HEAD BREWER,
FAIR STATE BREWING CO-OP

In the Books

— BY ERICA RIVERA —

There's no such thing as a "secret recipe" in Minnesota. Local chefs and home cooks are more than happy to share the methods behind their scrumptiousness with fellow foodies, and thanks to publishers like the Minnesota Historical Society Press and the University of Minnesota Press, every year brings a bountiful collection of culinary wisdom to the masses. Here are three worth checking out from 2017.

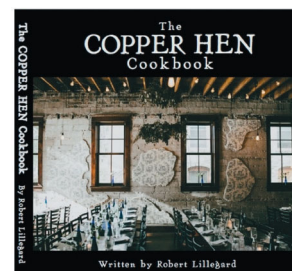
The Great Minnesota Hot Dish by Theresa Millang and Karen Corbett

There's nothing more Minnesotan than hot dish. Simply speaking, it involves some kind of protein, vegetables, and sauce, along with noodles, grains, or rice, layered in a casserole dish and finished with shredded cheese, crunchy toppings like potato chips, or tater tots. The beauty of this meal is in its simplicity: The amount of dirty dishes is minimal, and if you use kitchen staples like canned soup and frozen vegetables, no one will know the difference. In this updated and revised edition of their

cookbook, Millang and Corbett offer up 200-plus hot dish recipes, which you can find sorted by occasion (i.e. potluck, baby shower, sick neighbor). All your church-basement favorites are contained herein, from Scalloped Potatoes and Ham to Wild Rice with Pine Nuts to Rice-Broccoli Hot Dish and Gingered Rhubarb Crisp. Gather 'round and dig in.

The Copper Hen Cookbook by Robert Lillegard

Chris and Danielle Bjorling never meant to open a restaurant. The young married couple wanted to open a bakery that served wine and beer, but Minneapolis liquor laws don't work that way. The Bjorlings had to either add food or eliminate the alcohol. As we know from the Copper



Hen's eternally packed space on Eat Street, they went all in. Now the venue's new cookbook takes foodies through every meal (and drink) of the day. Drool-worthy color photos are motivation enough to fire up the oven (or stovetop) and try your hand at items like Bacon Blueberry Break-

fast Cupcakes, Gobbler Burgers, Chicken Coop Pizza, and Almond Cherry Boozy Cakes. Interspersed with the eats are stories from turning points of the restaurant: how the couple raised more than \$11,000 on Kickstarter; the time Chelsea Clinton descended with her entourage and praised the cast iron skillet cookie, landing an appearance on CNBC's *Restaurant Startup*. You can't help but root for these crazy kids—or resist their delicious concoctions.

The Lincoln Del Cookbook by Wendi Zelkin Rosenstein and Kit Naylor

The Lincoln Del was one of the most adored Jewish delicatessens in the Twin Cities. Founded in 1933 by Romanian immigrant Frank Berenberg (who brought his sour starter to Minnesota all the way from his homeland), the restaurant was named after Abraham Lincoln and eventually expanded to three locations. Before it closed in 2000, the Lincoln Del was notorious for its carb selection, including caraway rye bread and bagels, savory comfort foods like corned beef and cabbage borscht soup, and sweet treats like strawberry shortcake. About five years ago, Berenberg's great-granddaughter, Wendi Zelkin Rosenstein, began recreating the recipes from old bakers' cards. The result is a cookbook as rich with food as it is with family memories and local history. Whether you're craving Chocolate Chip Peanut Butter Bars (the Berenbergs' favorite recipe) or Chocolate Pie (a go-to of faithful Lincoln Del diners), there's something nostalgic for you to nosh on among this book's 70 recipes.

TREND TALK

— BY EMILY CASSEL —

Out with doughnuts; in with playful cocktails? Because we're always looking ahead, we asked local tastemakers what they hope we'll see and what they'd be more than happy to have fall by the wayside in 2018.



"In 2018, I'm looking for veggie-centric plates, more attention paid to where our seafood is sourced and how, more 'natural' wines being served and talked about, and an even greater interest in tea, especially matcha. I'd like to see more bold flavors coming from kitchens—but please, let's not welcome the '90s back in that regard."

— KIM BARTMANN, RESTAURATEUR,
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—DAN STAVIG, LEAD BREWER,
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"I want to see the playfulness of cocktails continue to grow in 2018. Now that there's a plethora of cocktail programs that are committed to quality, history, and technique, I'm hoping to see a movement towards taking that skill and education and churning out something new and visually stimulating. We've stripped down drinks to their most basic fundamentals based on history over the last decade, and now I'm hoping to see drink menus get more dressed up for the party."

—NICK KOSEVICH, PROPRIETOR,
BITTERCUBE



"I'd love to see less foams on menus—I'd be happy if that trend went away. I predict seeing fewer composed plates on menus and more shareable plates, eat with your hands, casual dining type food."

—ADAM EATON, CHEF DE CUISINE,
SAINT DINETTE



"I would be excited to see growth in the use of delicious, old-school, traditional foods like freshly milled whole grains, bone and meat broths, and fermented vegetables. As delicious as they can be, I think we have enough doughnuts and burger options in town."

—ALEX ROBERTS, OWNER AND HEAD CHEF,
ALMA AND BRASA



"I really want preconceived 'authenticity' and cultural assumptions to go away. I don't care where you're from—if you honor and connect with the cultures that influence you, awesome. If you don't, then that's appropriation, and you should stop. Mexican doesn't mean cheap, Korean doesn't mean spicy, and American doesn't mean only meat and potatoes. There's a big-ass world out there; food is a pretty good way to learn a little bit about it."

—THOMAS KIM, OWNER AND HEAD CHEF,
THE RABBIT HOLE

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"I predict more places using counter service due to the \$15 minimum wage increase. I also anticipate the chef shortage won't go away anytime soon. It's getting harder and harder to find good talent in the kitchen as culinary schools close."

—BENJAMIN RIENTS,
CHEF-PROPRIETOR, LYN 65



"Gin is still on the serious climb. I also see both Japanese whiskey and un-aged whiskey growing in popularity, especially whiskey that has more to do with the craft and less to do with the time it sat around. Kombucha is seemingly everywhere for people in the know, but I believe it will be more of a household beverage over the next two years. And, more a hope than a potential trend, but the Croatian/Slovenian/Hungarian wine scene is most underrated."

—MATTY O'REILLY, OWNER, REPUBLIC,
BAR BRIGADE, DELICATA



"As people grow more conscious of their food sources and the impact of what they consume, we anticipate diners caring more and more about their carbon footprints. There are calculators out there to calculate the carbon footprint of what you're eating. We think that guests will go beyond just eating local and care about this moving forward."

—THOMAS DAMBINE, CO-OWNER OF
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— BY EMILY CASSEL —

Or do you...

First, the "bad" news: Not one Minnesota chef took home a James Beard Award this year. Nonetheless, we did have 13 nominated chefs and two nominated restaurants... nothing to sneeze at. And Minnesota's Steven Brown (Tilia) and Jorge Guzman (Surly Brewing Co.)—both first-time nominees—were among the five finalists for Best Chef.

While none of our esteemed locals took home top honors in Chicago, we think they deserve one last shout-out before we crack open our 2018 calendars. They are:

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Diane Yang, Spoon and Stable

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Thomas Boemer, Corner Table
Mike Brown, Bob Gerken, and James Winberg, Travail Kitchen & Amusements
Steven Brown, Tilia
Lisa Carlson, Chef Shack
Jim Christiansen, Heyday
Jorge Guzman, Brewer's Table
at Surly Brewing Co.
Erick Harcey, Upton 43
Ann Kim, Young Joni

"But what about our beer?" you're asking. Don't worry!

In October, brewers from around the country converged on Denver for the Great American Beer Festival—the biggest national beer awards. GABF wins are kind of a huge deal—City Pages beer writer Jerard Fagerberg says winning one was "more or less the peg Sam Adams hung their hat on to get the craft beer movement started in the early 2000s," which means taking home a medal can be a big boon for local breweries. And take them home we did...

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Gold, Dortmund

BENT PADDLE

Gold, 14° ESB

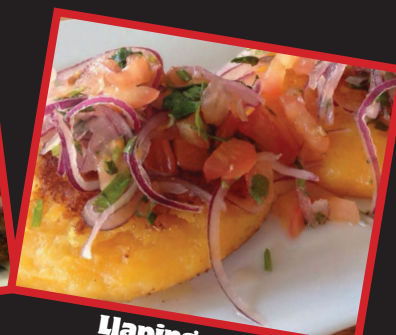
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THE CANTINA STRIKES BACK
A STAR WARS DANCE PARTY FT. DJ JAKE RUDH
FIRST AVENUE \$10/\$12 / 9PM DOORS / 18+

SAT DEC 23
DJ KEEZY PRESENTS
THE KLITUATION
WITH LEXII ALIJAI, MARIA ISA, DJ SOPHIA ERIS, SARAH WHITE, MANCHITA, LADY MIDNIGHT, MICAMARYJANE, SHANNON BLOWTORCH, DESTINY ROBERTS, MAYDA, AND MORE
FIRST AVENUE \$15 / 9:30PM DOORS / 18+

UP NEXT FIRST AVENUE MAINROOM

DEC 08
38TH ANNUAL JOHN LENNON TRIBUTE FT. CURTISS A WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS

DEC 22
FLIP PHONE PRESENTS
BEY BALL
A SEMI-FORMAL EVENING OF BEYONCÉ WITH POP-UP DRAG PERFORMANCES

DEC 29
CITY PAGES PRESENTS
SOUL ASYLUM AND HAR MAR SUPERSTAR
WITH BRUISE VIOLET

DEC 30
HORSESHOES & HAND GRENADES AND THE BIG WU
WITH THE LAST REVEL, FEEDING LEROY, THEM COULEE BOYS, CHRIS CASTINO & ADAM GREUEL

DEC 31
FLIP PHONE PRESENTS
2018: THE PARTY
STARRING RAJA AND RAVEN (RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE) WITH JULIA STARR, TYGRA SLARII, MAGIC DYKE, MUSIC BY DBAZ

JAN 05
89.3 THE CURRENT AND RADIO K PRESENT
FIRST AVENUE'S BEST NEW BANDS OF 2017
WITH THE BAD MAN, BLAHA, DWYNNEL ROLAND, EARLY EYES, LADY LARK, SASS, THOMAS ABBAN HOSTED BY ANDREA SWENSSON (89.3 THE CURRENT), SYLVIA JENNINGS (RADIO K), AND JORDAN ALAMAT (GO RADIO)

JAN 06
FIRST WRESTLING, PABST BLUE RIBBON, AND ZUBAZ PRESENT
WRESTLEPALOOZA XI
WITH SPECIAL MUSICAL GUESTS TBA

JAN 11
THE DEVIL MAKES THREE

JAN 18
PASSION PIT

JAN 26
89.3 THE CURRENT AND TGNP PRESENT
ANDREW BRODER & PEOPLE
2018 RESIDENCY FOR MUSIC AND ACTION FT. LOW, FOG, MARIJUANA DEATHSQUADS, IN // VIA, MIDNITE EXPRESS.

JAN 27
DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS
WITH LILLY HIATT

FEB 08
CITIES 97 PRESENTS
ZZ WARD
WITH BILLY RAFFOUL

FEB 11
BLACK REBEL MOTORCYCLE CLUB
WRONG TOUR 2018 WITH NIGHT BEATS

FEB 13
NECK DEEP
WITH SEAWAY, SPEAK LOW IF YOU SPEAK LOVE, CREEPER

FEB 16
REBELUTION
WITH RAGING Fyah

FEB 17
VALERIE JUNE
WITH BIRDS OF CHICAGO

FEB 22
93X THE PIT PRESENTS
MACHINE HEAD

FEB 23
THE CEDAR PRESENTS
ANI DIFRANCO

FEB 24
93X THE PIT PRESENTS
ARCHITECTS DOOMSDAY TOUR
WITH STICK TO YOUR GUNS, COUNTERPARTS

MAR 02
TUNE-YARDS
WITH SUDAN ARCHIVES

MAR 07
TY DOLLA \$IGN
DON'T JUDGE ME TOUR

MAR 15
AN EVENING WITH THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS

MAR 17
GODSPEED YOU! BLACK EMPEROR

MAR 18
OMD

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PHILLIP PHILLIPS THE MAGNETIC TOUR

APR 07
TY SEGALL

APR 11
THE WOOD BROTHERS
W/ NICKI BLUHM

APR 13
ECHOSMITH
W/ THE SCORE, JENA ROSE

APR 15
CIGARETTES AFTER SEX

APR 27
FRANZ FERDINAND

MAY 07
PETER HOOK & THE LIGHT
W/ DJ JAKE RUDH (TRANSMISSION)

MAY 09
JIMMY EAT WORLD
INTEGRITY BLUES THE TOUR W/ THE HOTELIER, MICROWAVE

UP NEXT 7TH ST ENTRY

SHAMIR
W/ PEAR
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

THE BLACK LILLIES
W/ GABE BARNETT & THEM ROUNDERS, MARY BUE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

THE DISTRICTS
W/ KATIE VON SCHLEICHER, SUN SEEKER
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

GGOOLDD
W/ TABAH
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

HENRY JAMES PATTERSON, LOVE SEQUENCE, AND THE BROKEN BEAKS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

DAEDELUS
THE ANTIDOTE TOUR
W/ FREE THE ROBOTS, MONO/POLY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

UNSAFE
W/ BIG BRAVE, CHILD BITE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

WTF
W/ THOMAS ABBAN, LYDIA LIZA
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

UP NEXT TURF CLUB

BEST MUSIC RESIDENCY, BEST JUKEBOX - CITY PAGES 2017

HARD CANDY CHRISTMAS
FT. SUNNY SWEENEY, JAMIE LIN WILSON, BRENNEN LEIGH, AND MORE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

REINA DEL CID
RECORD RELEASE SHOW
W/ AL CHURCH, DUSTY HEART
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

A TRIBUTE TO THE REPLACEMENTS
FT. THE MELISMATICS, AND MORE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

DRIVIN' N' CRYIN
W/ RICH MATSON AND THE NORTHSTARS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

CHANUKAH NIGHT WITH BANJO DAVE & GLITTERATTI: DREIDELS PROVIDED
DECEMBER 15 (CLOWN LOUNGE)

THE HONEYDOGS
W/ SAPHIRE, THOMAS ABBAN
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

DEAD HORSES
W/ LEE HENKE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

6TH ANNUAL MURRAY CHRISTMAS
FT. SHOSHONE GEORGE, AND MORE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

BURLAP THE SAC, JUNIOR VARSITY, AND THE NEW ARMADA
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

SOLACE'S 40TH BIRTHDAY BASH
FT. ALL TOMORROW'S PETTY W/ DARK HORSE, 2F4D, AND MORE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

TRAILER TRASH PRESENTS THE TRASHY LITTLE XMAS SHOW
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22 AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

F*CK 2017
A ROAST OF 2017
HOSTED BY RANA MAY AND DREW JANDA
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

UP NEXT PALACE THEATRE

BEST CONCERT VENUE - CITY PAGES 2017

JAN 13
BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS
W/ RONNIE BAKER BROOKS

JAN 20
RED BULL CRASHED ICE AFTERPARTY
W/ PAPER DIAMOND, SHREDDERS, MIKE 2600

JAN 24
BØRNS
W/ CHARLOTTE CARDIN, MIKKY EKKO

FEB 09 + 10
PORTUGAL. THE MAN
W/ TWIN PEAKS

FEB 17
HIPPO CAMPUS
W/ SURE SURE

FEB 22
GALACTIC WITH LETTUCE

FEB 23
JUDAH & THE LION
GOING TO MARS TOUR W/ COLONY HOUSE, TALL HEIGHTS

FEB 24
WALK THE MOON
W/ COMPANY OF THIEVES

MAR 02
MIGUEL
W/ SIR, NONCHALANT SAVANT

UP NEXT OTHER VENUES

DOROTHY
FINE LINE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

MAKO
BREATHE TOUR
FINE LINE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

TENNIS
W/ OVERCOATS
FINE LINE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

JOSH RITTER & THE ROYAL CITY BAND
FITZGERALD THEATRE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

ALEX AIONO
FEELS LIKE TOUR 2018
W/ TRINIDAD CARDONA
THE CEDAR
SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

KIMBRA
THE PRIMAL HEART TOUR
W/ KING, ARC IRIS
THE CEDAR
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

TRIBAL SEEDS
ROOTS PARTY
W/ THE GREEN, SAMMY J, LEILANI WOLFGAMM
THE CABOOZE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

BENJAMIN CLEMENTINE
FINE LINE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

DESTROYER
W/ MEGA BOG
FINE LINE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

POPPY.COMPUTER
TOUR 2018
THE CEDAR
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

DAVE SIMONETT AND BENSON RAMSEY
ICEHOUSE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

ENTER SHIKARI
W/ SINGLE MOTHERS, MILK TEETH
AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

RORY SCOVEL IN A PROPER GANDER TOUR
THE CEDAR
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

EMANCIPATOR
ENSEMBLE 'BARALKU' TOUR
FINE LINE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

A LIST

FRIDAY The Weisman explores Prince's impact **P. 23**

SATURDAY Transmission's *Star Wars* dance party **P. 24**

SUNDAY Naked Girls get holiday lit **P. 25**

Poet and tattoo artist Kato Arradondo is part of I AM MPLS! this week.



PIERRE WARE

WEDNESDAY 12.6

COMEDY

HENRY PHILLIPS

ACME COMEDY CO.

For years he was most widely known as a comedian who sang funny songs, but these days Henry Phillips is concentrating on writing relatable jokes and creating two different video series, *Henry's Kitchen* and *You and Your*

*Fu*king Coffee*. Songs are still a big part of his act, though. "There are a couple of new ones I've added to my set, and I've done some on radio shows within the last year." Older tunes receive the occasional update, like "Oops." The premise is still relevant, but things have changed. "I think at the time I wrote that the big story was the BP oil spill," he explains. "It's like, 'Hey if you mess up, just pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and move on.' It's a positive message." In the past

few years, he's rotated in verses about reading the wrong name at the Oscars and losing an entire Malaysian airliner. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393.

Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON

THURSDAY 12.7

PARTY

CITY PAGES COCKTAILIAN

THE DEPOT RENAISSANCE
MINNEAPOLIS HOTEL

City Pages wants to get you lit. Now in its fourth year, Cocktailian brings local and national distilleries together for an evening of generous booze samples. If whiskey neat and small vodka shots aren't your thing, there will be mixed drinks to try as well; the menu includes a pineapple gin fizz, an aquavit daiquiri, a rye blinker (a Prohibition-era favorite made with grapefruit juice), a vodka gimlet, and intriguingly quirky drinks named Midciantro Night's Dream and the Wiscosmopolitan. Restaurants such as Red Stag, Pinstripes, the Bird Rocks, and Hip Pop Gourmet Popcorn will also be on hand serving up tasty eats like spiced rum-soaked vanilla pound cake, chicken and goat-cheese pasta, macarons, ravioli pizza, and salt cod brandade. Other fun to be had includes mixology demonstrations from Bittercube, live music from JT Bates, and henna tattooing. Find tickets at cocktailian.citypages.com. 21+. 7 to 10 p.m.; 6 p.m. VIP. \$30-\$35; \$50-\$55 VIP. 225 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-375-1700. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

PARTY

I AM MPLS!

MACHINE SHOP

Through fashion, culture, and music, I AM MPLS! aims to highlight beautiful things and the people who make the Twin Cities scene hum. Curating the show this year are journalist/photographer duo Maya Clark and Pierre Ware, cofounders of the high-fashion online publication Culture Piece Magazine. They'll bring together an all-POC lineup of models and creatives. Among the local-business pop-ups will

be health and beauty subscription box the Hues Company, African clothing makers Ruva Designs, and Ice Cream Bow Ties, which was founded by Aniki Allen when he was just nine years old. There will be great music, including local groups FREEWIFI and Chadwick Niles Phillips, and a photobooth hosted by Selfie and Co. This year's happening is also presented by Be the Match. Find tickets at iammpls.com. 6 to 11:30 p.m. \$20; \$50 VIP. 300 Second, St. SE, Minneapolis. —SHEILA REGAN

THEATER

ANNIE

ORDWAY CENTER FOR
THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Ordway is offering a revitalizing boost of positivity with *Annie*. Adapted from Harold Gray's classic *Little Orphan Annie* comic strips of the 1920s, the musical follows the iconic title character, an inveterate dreamer who refuses to relinquish her hopes for a better life outside the grim confines of the Municipal Girls Orphanage. Through a fateful fluke, Annie is chosen to spend the holidays at the palatial home of billionaire Oliver Warbucks, an entrepreneur whose reluctance to take on a paternal role evaporates under Annie's kindhearted charm. Under the direction of Austene Van, this original production from the Ordway will alternate Carly Gendell and Lillian Hochman in the lead with support from an impressive cast of Twin Cities performers. 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays; 2 p.m. Fridays; 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. \$47-\$121.50. 345 Washington St., St. Paul; 651-224-4222.

Through December 31 —BRAD RICHASON

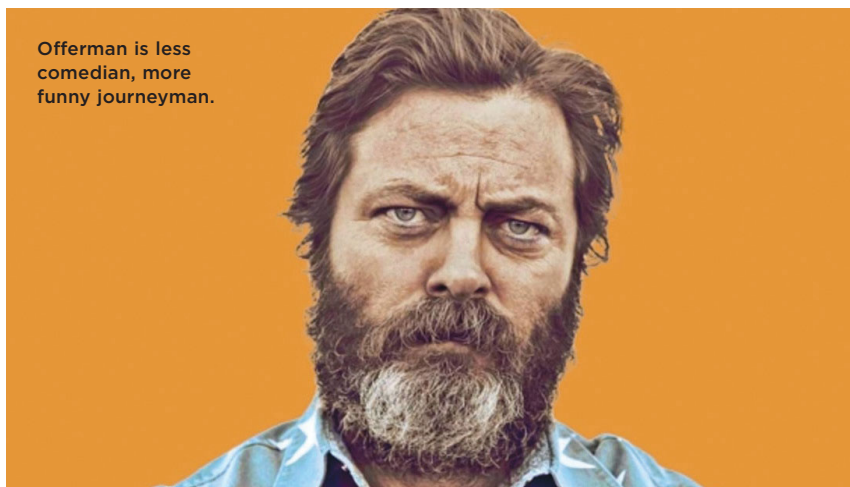
COMEDY

NICK OFFERMAN: FULL BUSH

STATE THEATRE

Much like Ron Swanson, the staunch libertarian he so memorably portrayed on *Parks & Recreation*, Nick Offerman is an unflagging proponent of personal integrity, dogged self-reliance, and painstaking craftsmanship (especially in the field of woodworking). Differing from his most renowned role, however, Offerman has demonstrated a penchant

Offerman is less comedian, more funny journeyman.



PROMOTIONAL IMAGE

for expressing the kind of unabashedly positive sentiments that are more characteristic of motivational speakers than off-the-grid survivalists. Offerman doesn't liken himself to a comedian; he's more of a humorist with witty musings on the human condition and folksy anecdotes on the importance of having close connections to counter emotional detachment. Whether discussing the pursuit of hirsute perfection or delving into the dangers of technological dependence, Offerman eschews negative rants in favor of a faith that human nature will always revert to its better self. Offerman performances can be likened to an extended monologue from a rugged sage who may be on a personal journey, but clearly values the camaraderie created along the way. 8 p.m. \$39.50-\$59.50. 805 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. —BRAD RICHASON

FRIDAY 12.8

PARTY

KULTURE KLUB COLLABORATIVE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HOOK AND LADDER THEATER & LOUNGE

For 25 years, Kulture Klub Collaborative has been helping homeless youth find their artistic voices. The organization pairs local artists with teens and young adults at YouthLink, a crisis drop-in center in downtown Minneapolis. Kulture Klub also hosts workshops and open mics to help nurture creative expression. The program has been so successful that many young people who go through the program end up having careers in the arts. To celebrate 25 years, the nonprofit will throw a party featuring former teaching artists and alumni. Taking the stage will be ZULUZULUU, Lady Midnight, and BatMN. DJ Mickey Breeze will play sets between acts. 21+. 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. \$10/\$13 at the door. 3010 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis; 612-345-7166. —SHEILA REGAN

THEATER

A VERY DIE HARD CHRISTMAS

BRYANT-LAKE BOWL THEATER

There are three things you can count on every holiday season: an onslaught of ugly sweater party invites, crippling anxiety about family get-togethers, and John McClane. For the sixth consecutive year, *A Very Die Hard Christmas* returns to Bryant-Lake Bowl for a yuletide run of shows featuring singing, dancing, and blood. The play provides a faithful yet extremely tongue-in-cheek retelling of *Die Hard*, long considered the greatest Christmas movie ever made (mostly by Bruce Willis enthusiasts and Bruce Willis himself). The BLB production includes nods to iconic Christmas specials, and the show's producer and star, Josh Carson, has managed to keep things fresh year after year with new jokes and guest stars. Whether you love or despise the holidays, this blood-soaked Christmas spectacle is the perfect way to show your yuletide spirit. Yippee ki-yay, Father Christmas. 10 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays. \$15/\$18 at the door. 810 W. Lake St., Minneapolis; 612-825-3737.

Through December 23 —PATRICK STRAIT

ART

PRINCE FROM MINNEAPOLIS

WEISMAN ART MUSEUM

Prince continues to fascinate not just music lovers, but also scholars of popular culture, sexuality, and African-American culture. Having curated and presented an exhibition and symposium devoted to the influences of Bruce Springsteen back in 2004, the Weisman Art Museum now turns its sights closer to home with a show and international conference (in April) that examines Prince's relationship to Minneapolis and Minnesota. The exhibition showcases, in one gallery, stunning images by local photographers Allen Beaulieu, Nancy Bundt, Terry Gydesen, and Robert Whitman, who trained their lenses on the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 ►

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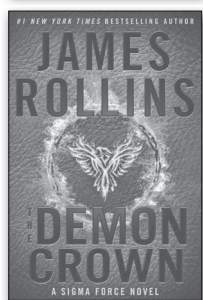
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A-LIST



Artists examine
Prince's influence
onstage and off.

NANCY BUNDT, PRINCE'S BIRTHDAY CONCERT AT FIRST AVENUE

CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

Purple One as he was establishing his look, his sound, and his identity. In other galleries are works ranging from the bizarre and the quotidian, including art dolls of Prince in various settings, seed artist Lillian Colton's portrait of Prince, glassworks, a bicycle, and a mural—all Prince-related. Meanwhile, the symposium will pose and answer such burning questions as: What were the demographic, cultural, and economic conditions that gave rise to Prince? How did he develop his sound in a predominantly white state? Did he reinvent the aesthetics and politics of blackness? How about notions of black male sexuality? Perhaps we'll never know. There will be a preview party from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, December 8. Tickets for the reception are \$25. 333 E. River Rd., Minneapolis; 612-625-9494. **Through June 17, 2018 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

SATURDAY 12.9

ART

LEGO FAN EXPO

BRICKMANIA TOYWORKS

This show is the perfect time to channel your inner kiddo and see the best in LEGO building. The Fan Expo has received buzz over plans for First Avenue and Nye's Polonaise Room designs, and other works will be contributed as well from Brickmania, Greater Midwest LEGO Train Club, Twin Cities LEGO Train Club, TwinLUG, and Jesse's Brick Galaxy. You'll be able to check out the *Guinness Book of World Records'* largest K'Next Ball Contraption, made from 80,000 pieces. The expo takes place every weekend through January 7, giving you plenty of time to nerd out appropriately. This will be the last time

that Brickmania Toyworks will host an event northeast Minneapolis' Thorp Building, which means if you miss it you'll have to go play with LEGOs at the Mall of America like a goddamn n00b. Tickets and more info can be found at www.brickmania.com/toyworks. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays; noon to 4 p.m. Sundays. \$8-\$10. 1620 Central Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-545-5263. **Through January 7, 2018 —PATRICK STRAIT**

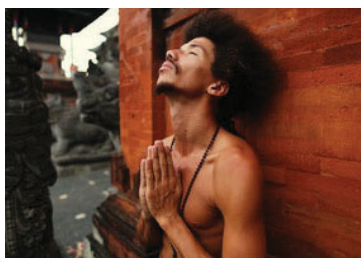
FOOD

5TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

UNION DEPOT

Last weekend, the Union Depot opened its European Holiday Market. This weekend, the sugar content amps up with the always popular Holiday Bake Sale. During the day, revelers will be able to indulge their sweet teeth, sampling and shopping from local bakeries and candy makers such as North Mallow, Nikkolette's Macarons, Cookie Cart, T-Rex Cookie Company, the Buttered Tin, Black Dog Cafe, and Mademoiselle Miel. There will be demonstrations and workshops offering lessons in making sugar- and gluten-free sweets, Russian tea cakes, and holiday breads. The Germanic American Institute will host a cake walk where competitors can win tortes and other treats to take home. Proceeds from the event will benefit Neighborhood House, an organization that offers a wide range of free services—health screenings, education, kids' programs—helping folks in need get back on their feet. Find tickets and more info at www.uniondepot.org/bakesale. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$5-\$10; seniors and kids under 12 free. 214 E. Fourth St., St. Paul; 651-202-2700. **—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

Cabooze



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WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
DECEMBER 9



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WALKER HAYES
ALBUM RELEASE PARTY
ALL AGES SHOW
DECEMBER 8



CLM PRESENTS
ROBB BANK\$
ALL AGES SHOW
DECEMBER 10



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DECEMBER 14

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BAR CRAWL
ST. PAUL
SANTA CRAWL
 VARIOUS LOCATIONS

This Saturday Santas, reindeer, and folks in ugly sweaters will convene in St. Paul to drink and be merry. Seven bars and restaurants will be opening their doors—and hearts—to the Christmas spirit, offering activities and games. They'll include karaoke, a drunk gift-wrapping challenge, a costume contest, ornament making, and a DJ dance party. Be sure to stop by the puppy kissing booth. A free bus will serve as your sleigh, taking you to spots like Gabe's by the Park, Billy's on Grand, Eagle Street Grille, and Shamrock's. Proceeds from the event will benefit Toys for Tots, and you can score a free drink when you bring along a new unwrapped toy donation. If you're ordering online, you can pick your wristband up at Ragstock and receive 20 percent off your shopping that day, or stop by O'Gara's (164 Snelling Ave., St. Paul) the night of the happening to purchase tickets. 21+. 5 p.m. to midnight. \$20-\$25. Find more details at www.stpaulsantacrawl.com. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER



COURTESY OF EVENT ORGANIZERS

DANCE
THE CANTINA STRIKES BACK:
A STAR WARS DANCE PARTY
 FIRST AVENUE

We are mere days away from the release of *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*. To work off those pre-viewing jitters, consider dancing it out at First Avenue's celebration. The venue will be teaming up with Transmission's Jake Rudh for a dance party from a galaxy far far away. Costumes are encouraged, so pop on your Princess Leia earmuffs or your Wookiee-style fake fur coat and hit the dance floor with droids, Hutts, and Ewoks getting down to sci-fi-flavored pop tunes, R&B, rock anthems, and more from the '70s and beyond. The 501st Legion of the Central Garrison will be showing up for photos and other fun, and videos will be projected on the wall. A portion of the evening's proceeds will benefit Toys for Tots. 18+. 9 p.m. \$10/\$12 at the door. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

THEATER
88: HACHI HACHI
 PARK SQUARE THEATRE

TaikoArts Midwest is the reigning entity for learning, performing, and building community around taiko, the Japanese word for drum and the modern style of playing these drums. Blending movement with pulse-pounding, dynamic drumming, the group's work takes a slight turn by presenting *88: Hachi Hachi*. The 60-minute performance is a duet showcasing the co-directors of Portland's professional taiko company, UNIT SOUZOU. Michelle Fujii and Toru Watanabe weave storytelling, music,

theater, choreography, and drumming into the piece as they explore their relationship as two people who are Japanese and Japanese-American, man and woman, husband and wife. Now eight years married (hence the 88) and "hachi hachi" (a.k.a. "head to head") on their life and work partnership, the two have created a singular performative language that bridges their two cultures. For tickets, go to taikoartsmidwest.ticketspice.com/hachi-hachi. 7:30 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$15-\$25. 20 W. Seventh Pl., St. Paul; 651-291-7005. **Through Sunday — CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

SUNDAY 12.10

BOOKS/NUDITY
NAKED GIRLS READING
PRESENT: 'TIS THE SEASON
 CAMP BAR TWIN CITIES

Beauty and brains mingle at this holiday-themed literary event for the erotically inclined. Founded by burlesque duo Michelle L'amour and Franky Vivid, Naked Girls Reading launched in 2009 as a way to bring a little va-va-voom to the world of literature. As you might guess, the event features burlesque performers bringing voluptuousness to their interpretations of poetry and prose, proving once and for all that there is nothing square about literature. The holiday event features not just Christmas readings, but a whole array of cultural traditions. So whatever you're celebrating this year, come on down for some great entertainment and inspired words from barely clad showgirls. Find tickets via brownpapertickets.com. 6 p.m. \$15/\$20 at the door. 490 N. Robert St., St. Paul; 651-292-1844. —SHEILA REGAN

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'COCO'

Pixar's latest is fun, vibrant, and full of dead people



Ain't the afterlife grand?

COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY STUDIOS

BY TONY LIBERA

Pixar does not shy away from death. Any moviegoer who's been reduced to a puddle on the theater floor by one of its stories can tell you that.

But in *Coco*, the famed animation studio makes death a focal point. Tackling murder and the afterlife in this much detail would be a gutsy move for anybody else making a "kids' movie." For Pixar, it's another notch in the win column.

The story follows Miguel Rivera (Anthony Gonzalez), a 12-year-old Mexican boy who has to hide his love of the guitar from his music-hating family. Miguel practices in secret, learning licks from the movies of Mexico's greatest musician, hometown hero Ernesto de la Cruz (Benjamin Bratt).

On the Day of the Dead, Miguel decides to enter the annual talent show; however, his grandmother sees his guitar and destroys it. Miguel runs away to the cemetery to take the legendary guitar of de la Cruz, which hangs above the deceased musician's tomb. But when Miguel grabs the instrument, he finds himself crossing between the worlds of the living and the dead.

Coco is a success on a few different fronts. What's most apparent is Pixar's sensitivity toward Mexican heritage. It's great to see the studio branching out to tell more culturally diverse stories; what's better is a treatment that's regarded as an authentic representation and not some two-dimensional pastiche. Pixar did its due diligence, which allows for a movie that's fresh both visually and in its storytelling. Dia de los Muertos in real life is an impressive spectacle, and Pixar's fleshing out of its more mystical elements provides some of their finest eye candy yet.

As Miguel crosses the bridge into the spirit world, we see the vibrant urban landscape that is the land of the dead, and as the frame fills with lights and festivities we're comforted by an afterlife that's less scary and more celebratory than we may have imagined. Pixar has always been on the animation forefront, yet with scenes like this, each new movie still finds a way to dazzle.

Miguel's odyssey masterfully interweaves some of the cooler and lesser known aspects of Mexican culture (the alebrije Pepita, a mythical animal statue,

COCO

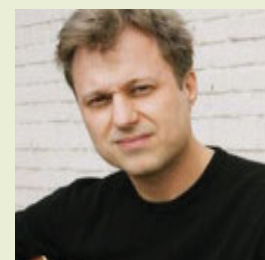
directed by Lee Unkrich and Adrian Molina
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being the coolest) with explorations of family, death, and music's effects on memory and dementia. Though that last part will go over the heads of the movie's younger viewers, its execution is masterful. The plot is telegraphed a bit, but that may only be because we've come to expect Pixar to do the unexpected. And the rest of *Coco* more than makes up for it.

There was one major downside to seeing *Coco*, though it had nothing to do with the movie itself. It was the excruciating 21-minute "short" that preceded it: "Olaf's Frozen Adventure." Pixar's pre-movie stories are often as enjoyable as their features, so it's a shame moviegoers have been subjected to this meritless short, which focuses on the most annoying animated character in recent memory: Olaf the snowman from *Frozen*.

The short will no longer run before the film as of December 7, sparing you the agony and allowing you to jump right into the treat that is *Coco*. **C**

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JOY TO THE WORLD

Shá Cage energizes audiences with holiday spirit



MARK VANCELEAVE

BY JAY GABLER

If you're tired of predictable family fare, you'll welcome Shá Cage's *Khephra*. As the young title character emigrates from Africa to Minnesota, you won't be able to predict what turns her adventures will take.

The new "hip hop holiday story," now onstage at Open Eye Figure Theatre under the direction of E.G. Bailey, was written by Cage, who also stars as Khephra. The episodic play has the feeling of a work in progress, with some head-spinning shifts in tone. However, *Khephra* encompasses so much accomplished art and celebrates such genuine joy that it's impossible not to feel warmed and inspired.

The show, which runs about an hour once it gets going, follows Khephra from her childhood in West Africa through her adolescence in Minnesota. At first, she's often represented by a small figure Cage holds; later, Cage plays the role at full scale and the doll occasionally reappears as a reminder of Khephra's past.

The first section is built on storytelling and puppetry. With the aid of exuberant castmates Destiny Anderson and Alissa Paris, Cage tells two tales: one about a lazy bug and the other about a can-do critter. The stories are entertaining, and suggest morals from which Khephra might be able to take inspiration as she travels to America.

The journey comes after a sudden sadness, and Khephra arrives in Minnesota to discover that it's Christmastime. The house lights come up, and vocalist Jamela Pettiford jumps onstage to lead the audience

KHEPHRA: A HIP HOP HOLIDAY STORY

Open Eye Figure Theatre
506 E. 24th St., Minneapolis
612-874-6338; through December 9

in not one, not two, but three celebratory singalongs.

In the play's final section, Khephra sets out to prove herself as a worthy peer of her new neighborhood's B-girls, while her mother (Pettiford) worries about whether the teen's African identity is slipping away. By show's end, everyone's singing and clapping to a hip-hop "Silent Night."

The show's varied structure puts many of Cage's gifts to work: She's a writer, she's an actor, she's a storyteller. She's also a convener, and there's an incredible amount of talent involved with this production.

Rico Mendez offers a soundscape and beats, while William "Truthmaze" Harris handles drum duties and beat-boxing. Ta-coumba Aiken contributes painted backdrops that lend a sense of depth to Open Eye's cozy stage; the script incorporates poetry and lyrics by Anderson, Ibe Kaba, Desdamona, and See More Perspective.

There are some bumpy transitions, and the extended singalongs could be trimmed (perhaps sensing this, on Friday night the performers skipped a few verses of an Africanized "Twelve Days of Christmas"). That said, this is a generously conceived and hugely openhearted show that, in approaching the holidays from an African newcomer's perspective, serves as a welcome addition to the Euro-centric holiday entertainments that fill so many other stages and screens. **C**

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ANNA EGELHOFF

25, GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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Best style tip for surviving Minnesota winters?

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What's one thing in your wardrobe you can't live without?

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LEEYA ROSE JACKSON

26, ART DIRECTOR,
BORROWED INTEREST PODCAST HOST

What are you wearing?

Jumpsuit from Ragstock, Neighborhood Watch production company hat.

Describe your style:

If Solange and Princess Nokia had a baby.

Where do you get style inspiration?

Instagram and my mom.

Best style tip for surviving Minnesota winters?

Tights.



ALEX HEIDE

29, SOCIAL STRATEGIST

What are you wearing?

ASOS jacket, earrings, and boots; tights and tank from Target, Reformation dress.

Describe your style:

I've been mistaken for a motorcyclist and a yoga teacher in the same day.

Where do you get style inspiration?

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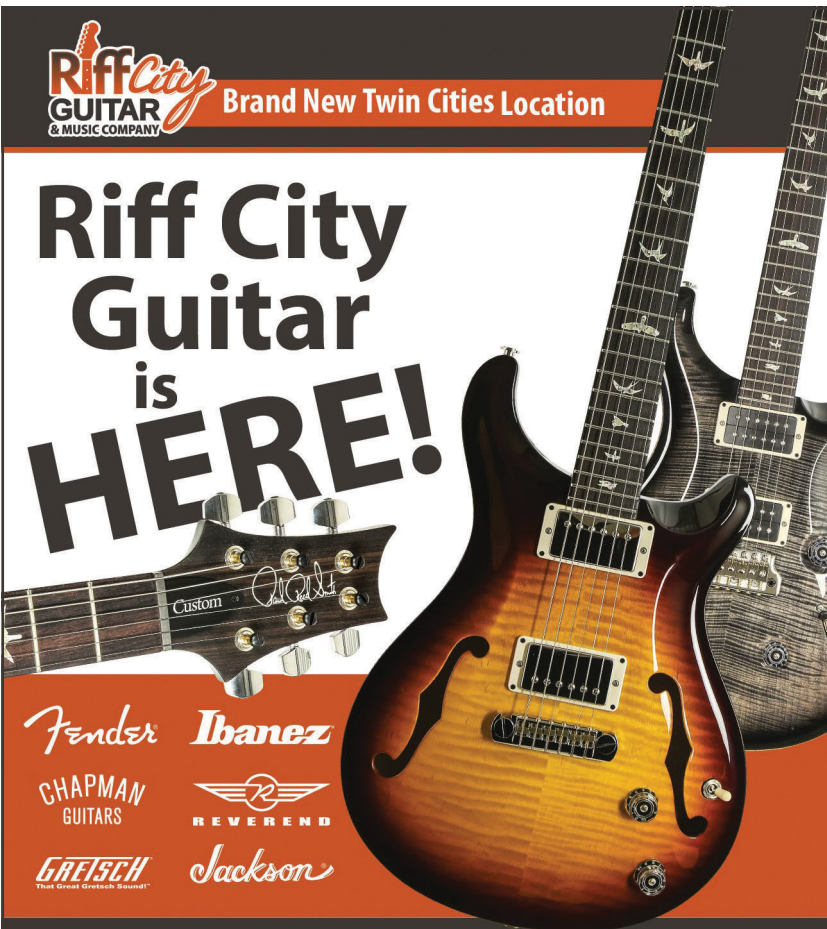
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KEEPING TIME

Beatmaker Big Cats shifts priorities on his new album, *Most Days*

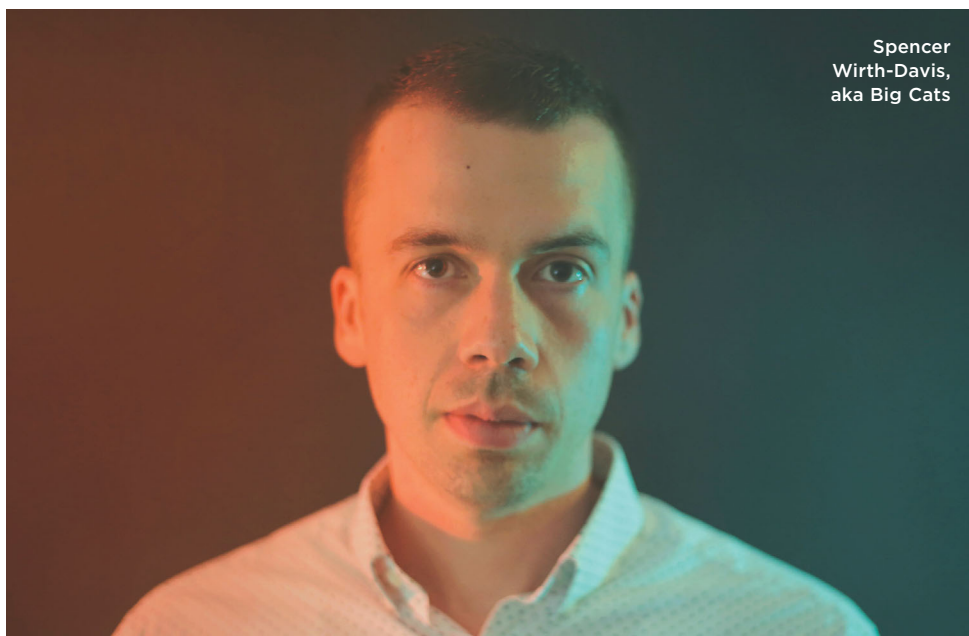
BY ERICA RIVERA

Spencer Wirth-Davis looks tired. Last night the producer known as Big Cats flew home to Minneapolis after jetting from New York to Portland to Los Angeles to work on a new album collaboration and to meet with ad agencies about musical commissions. He wears a gray beanie and a violet hoodie with a red heart on the left side of his chest. His face is friendly, his features exaggerated; black eyebrows stretch straight over brown eyes and stubble surrounds his plump lips.

Wirth-Davis is here in a busy south Minneapolis coffeeshop to talk about his third album, *Most Days*, which drops on Friday, followed by a release show at Icehouse on Saturday. The album's title refers to the idea that you are what you do with your time. "That's the best, the most honest way of evaluating yourself," he says. "I can think that I'm all these things and I want people to think of me a certain way, but at the end of the day, what do I actually do with my time?"

Until June, what Wirth-Davis did with his time was teach small classes of high-schoolers at Hennepin County Home School, a correctional facility in Minnetonka where his students were serving six- to nine-month sentences. Half the curriculum was fun music-making; half was music theory and education. He also answered students' music biz questions: "How do I book shows?" "How do I get on iTunes?" "What are some red flags to look for when working with a promoter?" "Where's the best place to get posters made?" "Is it worth it anymore to do CDs?"

"It was amazing working with that group of kids, especially because it was their only creative outlet, probably, in their whole day," he says. But it was 50 hours per week, so for the two years he taught there, Wirth-Davis didn't make music of



Spencer Wirth-Davis, aka Big Cats

ERIN PEDERSON

his own. "I was learning a lot and growing a lot on the teaching side, but I was going backwards on the music side."

This summer, he dedicated himself full-time to music and started working on *Most Days* with no expectations, deadlines, or obligations. He sent demos to Nelson Devereaux (saxophone, flute), Eric Mayson (vocals, piano), Miguel Hurtado (drums), and Lydia Liza (vocals, guitar) before they met up to experiment and record. Wirth-Davis then reassembled the best parts of the recordings for the new five-track instrumental album. *Most Days* is a sonic collage: melancholic, pensive, and oceanic.

Born in St. Paul, the 31-year-old was involved in orchestra in high school, and he played in jazz and rock bands too. But he also DJed and made beats, and that's what he decided to focus on around the time he entered the University of Minnesota to study painting and photography. His older brother, also a musician, dubbed him Big Cats.

In 2006, while still in college, Wirth-Davis began collaborating with local rapper and spoken word artist Guante; they released *Start a Fire* in 2009 and would make two more albums together.

BIG CATS

11 p.m. Saturday, December 9
Icehouse in Minneapolis

"His work is just consistently gorgeous, whether on a pop 'this is catchy' level, a hip-hop 'this bangs' level, or a deeper 'I resonate with this' level," says Guante. "I hear humility in Spencer's music; it situates itself as part of a larger tradition, it doesn't neglect the listener, it pushes forward without disdain for its roots, it's collaborative. And the end result is something more timeless and deeply rooted than a lot of similar music."

Through the Guante collaboration, Wirth-Davis befriended other local artists like Alexei Caselle, Chastity Brown, Haley, and Brandon Allday and Medium Zach of Big Quarters. Wirth-Davis has partnered creatively with more than 100 rappers since, including Lizzo, P.O.S, and Toki Wright.

"Big Cats has an ear for detail and understands texture. He's someone that is constantly seeking new ways to bend sounds," says Wright. "Every time we collaborate he's expanded into another realm and pushes me to continue stepping outside of my comfort zone."

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MUSIC

"As a producer, my role is to get the artist to a point that they haven't been before or to pull that best material out of them," Wirth-Davis says. That might mean convincing someone to try an ambient soundscape, adding drums when they usually wouldn't, or using live instrumentation. It isn't always easy. "A lot of times, artists are not going to veer that far off of what has already worked for them. It's a big risk to take. At the end of the day, that's your living, making music that people relate to."

The one thing he doesn't do? Write lyrics. "Even when I listen to music, I'm barely paying attention to what's going on with the lyrics," he says. "That's why I've always been more attracted to working with rappers like Toki or Guante or Stef [P.O.S.], who are incredibly skilled lyrically, but are responsible people. I can trust that they're not going to say some wild shit."

Demanding his fair share of the credit helped him build a brand and a good reputation. Wirth-Davis believes producers should be named on records, be included in live shows, and be paid fairly for their contributions. "That was something that I, early in my career, very consciously tried to address. If I'm producing a record for Guante, it's not a Guante record, it's a Guante/Big Cats record. If I'm doing a record with you, we're splitting it 50-50. It's as much mine as it is yours and vice-versa."

Wirth-Davis has considered moving to L.A. or New York, but ultimately the low cost of living and the "low-key" music scene keep him tethered to Minnesota. He works from RiverRock Studios in Minneapolis as well as his home studio in the Longfellow neighborhood. "I kind of love having winter from a musical perspective because there's nothing better to do than stay inside and make a record every winter," he says.

And while he'd like to get back into teaching, Wirth-Davis hasn't found an avenue that would allow a good work-life balance yet. Still, he knows how important it is to share music with young people. "If you're not connecting generationally, a lot of the culture gets lost and a lot of groundwork infrastructure gets lost."

For now, Wirth-Davis stays busy producing, working on his paranormal podcast *What If?*, and "musical odd jobs" like composing for companies like Nike, CNN, and PBS. And he's constantly evaluating whether his time is well-spent.

"There's a very toxic practice of doing things so you can show other people that you're doing them. You go to a show now and everybody's on their phones," he says. "What are you doing with your time and your energy? Is it anything good at the end of the day? No one gives a shit about your Instagram account. It does not matter at all."

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9:30pm : house of mercy recordings showcase
ang and the ranch hands
wilkinson james
matt arthur
john hermanson

thu : december 7

9:30pm : **ruben**

fri : december 8

7pm : **laura and sean's**
movie and music trivia

10pm : **yana, karate break, red owl**

sat : december 9

7pm : **trivia mafia presents:**
331 drinkin' spelling bee

10pm : **thomas abban, tucker jensen**

sun : december 10

2-4pm : **dr. sketchy's anti-art school**
8pm : **trivia mafia**

mon : december 11

8pm : **the roe family singers**

10pm : **doug otto and friends**

tue : december 12

7-9pm : **t.e.e. - tuesday, early evening.**

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Crossing a Line

Is it wrong to masturbate to photos of Facebook friends?



Dan Savage

I'm a middle-aged married dude. Sex life with my wife is good, but I also masturbate because, you know, I'm a person. Sometimes I masturbate while surfing through pictures on Facebook of attractive women I know. These aren't stolen nudes off of someone's phone; they're public pictures. I'm progressive when it comes to politics and gender issues. Face-to-face, I'm respectful and would never do anything to make these women—or any other woman—feel uncomfortable. I don't leer, and I'm not a creeper. I know what I'm doing is pervy, but is it pervy bad? Am I crossing a line?

PEERING IS CREEPY, SOMETIMES

Masturbating to someone is fine; masturbating at someone is not. Our erotic imaginations are free to roam—and that includes roaming through Facebook. No one needs our permission to fantasize about us or anything else, and we can't control how the pics we share on social media will be enjoyed. Provided you aren't doing or saying anything to make your Facebook "friends" uncomfortable (no supposedly friendly but transparently thirsty comments, no tongue-hanging-out emojis), you're doing something no one wants to think about, PICS, but you're not crossing a line.

My significant other and I rarely have sex. A while ago, I had a sexual encounter with her daughter. We continued to have sexual encounters for some time. Now my significant other and I may be getting married. Her daughter and I broke it off, but it started up again after a week. I am attempting to break things off with my significant other's daughter again, but I'm having a hard time. Please advise.

RESTRAINING URGES IS NECESSARY

Marrying a woman whose adult daughter you can't keep your dick out of... yeah, that's a bad idea. (And her daughter is an adult, right!? You're not Roy Moore'ing it, are you?) Sooner or later, your significant other is going to discover what's been going on, and your relationship with both of these women will be destroyed. You'll be able to move out and move on, RUIN, but your

former significant other isn't going to be so lucky. Because while you won't always be her SO, and hopefully won't ever be her husband, her daughter is always going to be her child. So while you may get out from this relationship with some light scarring, your ex and her daughter will be left with open, gaping wounds for the rest of their lives. My advice: Pull up your pants, cancel the wedding, and get as far away from your SO and her daughter as possible.

A couple of weeks ago, my girlfriend and I were engaging in mutual masturbation when she squirted all over my hand—a large amount—and she was completely mortified. It was the first time it happened for her, and it's happened several times since. She is upset. I've been with a couple of other women in the past who squirted, and I am fine with it. I love it, in fact! I did my best to reassure her that I think it's great and there's nothing to be ashamed of, but she's really embarrassed every time. The last time, she was close to tears with fears that she'd urinated. My question: There's so much great writing about female ejaculation, but rather than bombard my GF with links, how can I help her feel okay about this?

SINCERE QUESTIONER UNDERSTANDS IT'S REALLY TERRIFIC

You can help her feel okay about this by continuing to use your words ("I love this, it's so hot!"), by sharing those articles with her (she needs to hear from and about other women with her superpower), and by lapping that shit up. Swallow, SQUIRT. And so what if it is piss? (And many argue it isn't.) Piss isn't sterile, as Mike Pesca took time out of his day to explain to me on the *Savage Lovecast* back when alleged human being Donald Trump's alleged pee tape was all over the news. But there are a lot more bacteria in saliva. If you guys are swapping other fluids regularly, why not swap a little of this one, too?

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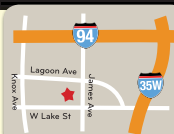
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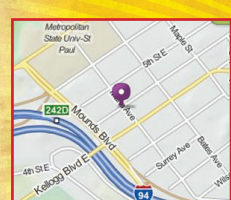
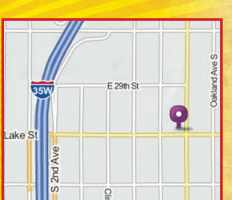
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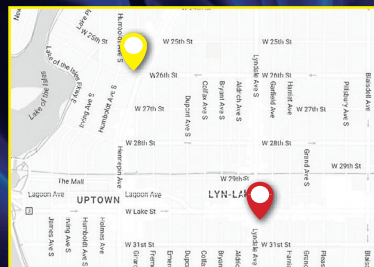
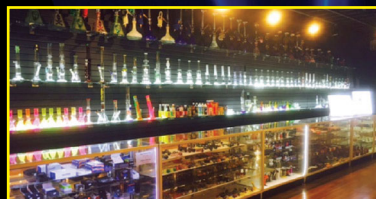
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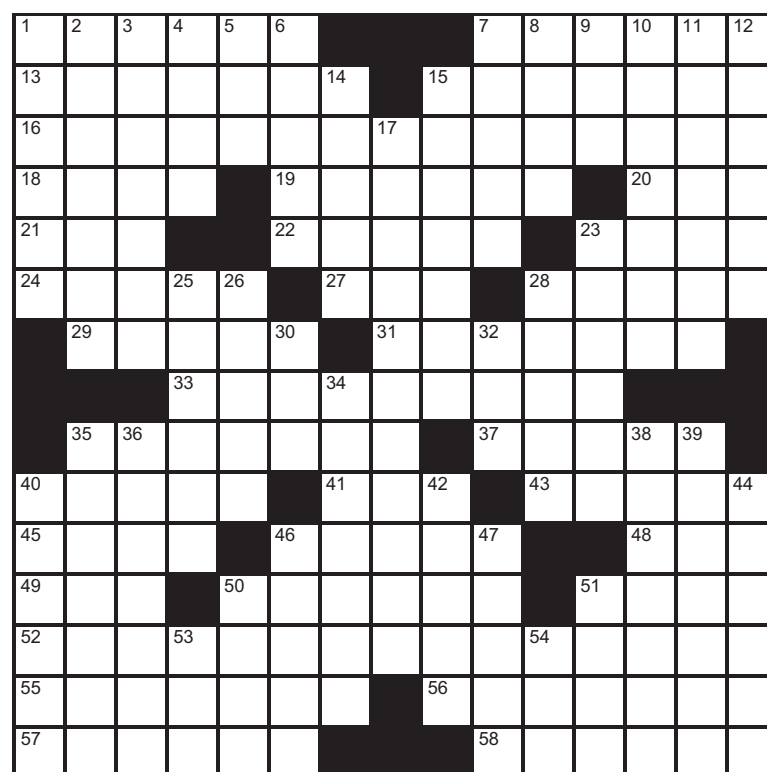
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Across

- 1 Fit in with
- 7 Big boom demonstrations
- 13 Type of salad dressing
- 15 Early Christian
- 16 "Hip Hop Hooray"
hip hoppers
- 18 She plays Jane on
"Jane The Virgin"
- 19 Hardened
- 20 "Rick and Morty"
co-creator Harmon
- 21 Like a geezer
- 22 Time to clean up?
- 23 Entrée complement
- 24 Tarot cards and
crystal ball users
- 27 "Senses Working
Overtime" new wavers
- 28 "___ Gold" (1997 movie
seen more in crosswords
than actually seen by
movie viewers)
- 29 Dismal, in verse
- 31 Bread winners
- 33 Cameo, e.g.
- 35 Rings
- 37 Classic Halloween
costume
- 40 Tries to get the #1 pick
in the draft, likely
- 41 Bow hunting
rocker Nugent
- 43 Basic belief
- 45 Walk in the woods
- 46 LA's region
- 48 "Was ___ blame?"

- 49 English cathedral city
- 50 Baby Bjorn rider
- 51 Wonder Woman's
friend Candy
- 52 "You blew that big time!"
- 55 "Stay focused"
- 56 One-man band, e.g.
- 57 Strive (toward)
- 58 Hill ___ ("Back To
The Future" setting)

Down

- 1 Seven-tile words
in Scrabble
- 2 Sold on Amazon, say
- 3 Clean dirty money
- 4 Kurylenko who
played a Bond girl
- 5 Medical grant agcy.
- 6 Like some tony
communities
- 7 Building enlargement
- 8 "Wind in the Willows"
animal
- 9 Superlative ending
- 10 Scholarly pupil
- 11 Angry vlog missives
- 12 Trailer units
- 14 Old
telecommunications
name
- 15 Two-wheeled theme
park transport
- 17 Probably my favorite
ice cream flavor
- 23 Protective cover
- 25 2018's "Tomb Raider"
(looks decent)

- 26 Schooner flappers
- 28 Vacant, as a apartment
- 30 Temperature takers,
for short
- 32 Towel holder
- 34 In la la land
- 35 Some newspapers
- 36 Mushroom with
dark spore prints
- 38 Part of a monogram
- 39 BLT ingredient
- 40 Warriors'
stomping ground
- 42 Mild expletives
- 44 Pleasantly warm
- 46 [Bo-o-o-o-oring]
- 47 No. 2 in the statehouse
- 50 Disney exec Bob
- 51 Chemical compound
- 53 Recently benched
QB Manning
- 54 That lady, in São Paulo

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